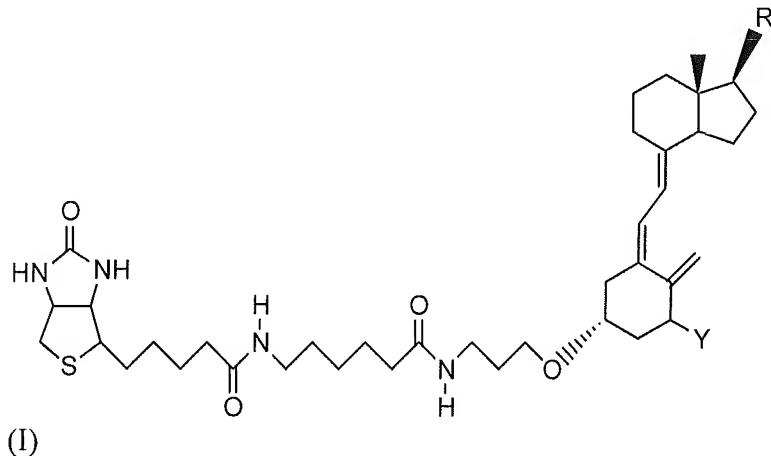


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of measuring the amount of  $\alpha$ -25-hydroxy vitamin D metabolite, and  $1\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxy vitamin D metabolite or both in a sample using a competitive protein binding assay, wherein comprising measuring displacement of a vitamin D derivative derivative of formula (I) from a vitamin D binding protein is measured and the vitamin D derivative displaces a by 25-hydroxy-vitamin D or  $1\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxy vitamin D metabolite or both from the vitamin D binding protein,

wherein a displacement efficiency of approximately 1 is obtained by using a vitamin D derivative of formula (I):



wherein:

R represents a 25-hydroxylated side-group of vitamin D<sub>2</sub> or of vitamin D<sub>3</sub>;

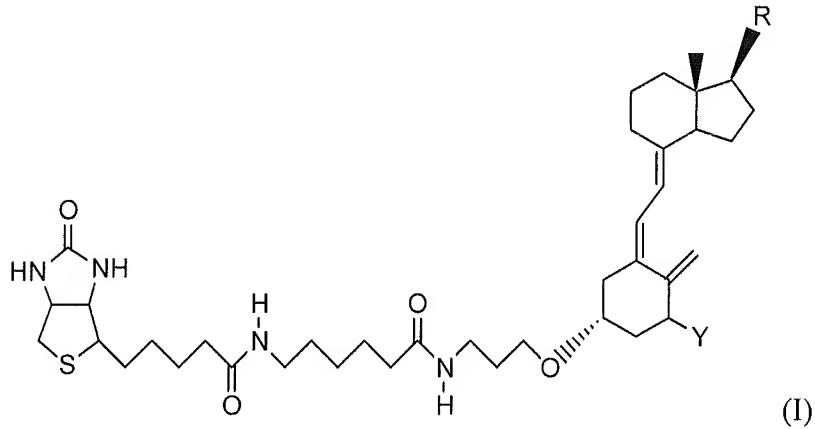
Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy;

and wherein the measurement of correlating the measurement of displacement of a the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) from a the vitamin D binding protein in the sample is correlated to the measurement of displacement of a the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) from a the vitamin D binding protein using a known quantity of the vitamin D derivative of formula (I) to determine the amount of  $\alpha$ -25-hydroxy vitamin D metabolite, and  $1\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxy vitamin D metabolite or both in the sample.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the method is a competitive immunoassay, selected from the group consisting of radioimmunoassay, enzyme immunoassay enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, luminescence immunoassay and fluorescence immunoassay.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the method is sandwich immunoassay, selected from the group consisting of immuno radiometric assay, IEMA/EIA, immuno luminometric assay and immunofluorometric assay.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A kit for detection of 25-hydroxy- vitamin D or  $\alpha$ /25- $\alpha$ , 25-dihydroxy vitamin D metabolites or both in a sample on by basis of a competitive protein binding assay, wherein displacement of a vitamin D derivative of the formula (I) from a vitamin D binding protein is measured and the vitamin D derivative displaces  $\alpha$ -25-hydroxy-vitamin D or  $\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxy vitamin D metabolite from the vitamin D binding protein, comprising a standardized quantity of a solid vitamin D derivative of formula (I) or a standardized solution of a vitamin D derivative of formula (I):



wherein:

R represents a 25-hydroxylated side-group of vitamin D<sub>2</sub> or of vitamin D<sub>3</sub>;

Y represents hydrogen or hydroxy;.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. **(Original)** The kit of claim 4 comprising a solid phase selected from the group consisting of a microtitration plate, another solid carrier, a microparticle, a polymeric material, and a cellulose.

8. **(Original)** The kit of claim 7, in which the solid phase is a microparticle comprising agarose.

9. **(Original)** The kit of claim 7, in which the solid phase is a magnetic microparticle.

10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said competitive protein binding assay is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme immunoassay, an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, a radio immunoassay, an immunoradiometric assay, a luminescence assay, a fluorescence immunoassay and an immunofluorometric assay.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein Y is hydroxy.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The kit of claim 4 wherein Y is hydroxy.

14. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the 25-hydroxy vitamin D is removed from the sample before performing the competitive protein binding assay.

15. **(New)** The method of claim 1, in which an antibody that specifically binds 1 $\alpha$ ,25-dihydroxy vitamin D is used in the competitive protein binding assay.